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Historical and biographical notes add a touch of human interest to the subject, and several portraits of famous mathematicians are included at points in the text where their work has contributed to the development of the subject.

Plane Geometry with Problems and Applications. By H. E. SLAUGHT, Associate Professor of Mathematics in the University of Chicago, and N. J. LENNES, Instructor in Mathematics in Columbia University. Published by Allyn and Bacon.

This book is sufficiently different from the numerous editions of "geometry" to deserve special attention. To quote from the preface: "The subject has been enriched by including many applications of special interest to the pupils. . . ." Free use is made of certain sources of problems which may be easily comprehend without extended explanations—such problems pertain to decoration, ornamental designs and architectural forms." On closer investigation it appears that these applications are intended merely to furnish a *concrete setting* for the usually too abstract geometrical theorems. There is no claim made that they are practical in the sense that the study of bookkeeping is practical for one who intends to keep books. The aim is to present the subject "so that the pupils may learn to know the essential facts of elementary geometry as properties of the space in which they live and not merely as statements in a book."

The large number of finely executed cuts give the book an unusual and particularly attractive appearance.

Throughout the book there is a large number of simple exercises, many of which can be answered at sight. Algebraic solutions are used freely, and manipulation of algebraic expressions such as radicals is required in an unusually large and varied number of problems. Many are exceedingly simple, such as; Ex. 30, p. 150, while others are quite difficult such as Ex. 18, p. 266.

While the logical rigor of the older texts has been fully maintained and in some cases improved (see the treatment of incommensurables), the whole subject has been recast with the avowed purpose of adapting to the needs and powers of the pupil. It is interesting to note that while this book and the new "Syllabus in Geometry for the State of New York" were unquestionably prepared entirely independently of one another, the book carries out the letter and spirit of that syllabus as fully as if it were made with special reference to it. There seem therefore to be some reasons for believing that recent discussions on the pedagogy and subject matters of geometry have brought into clearer light certain fundamental principles which are being generally accepted.

This book is bound to exert a wide influence on the teaching of geometry and to other texts which will appear in the future.

The "Solid Geometry" by the same authors, which is expected soon, will receive a cordial welcome from teachers who have already looked over the "Plane Geometry."